

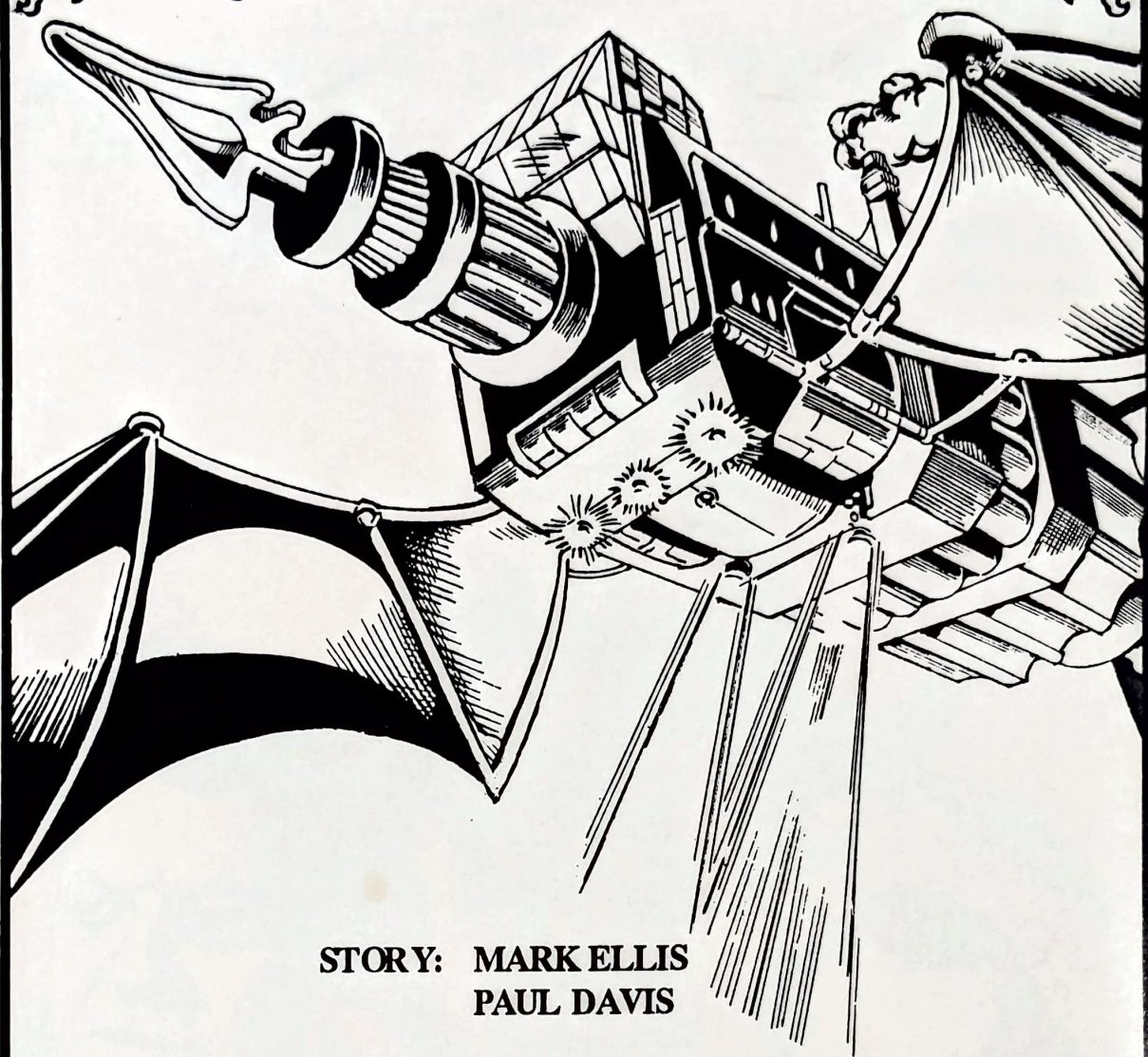


THE WILD WILD WEST

NO. 3
U.S. 2.95
Can. 3.50



Cover by Mark Menendez



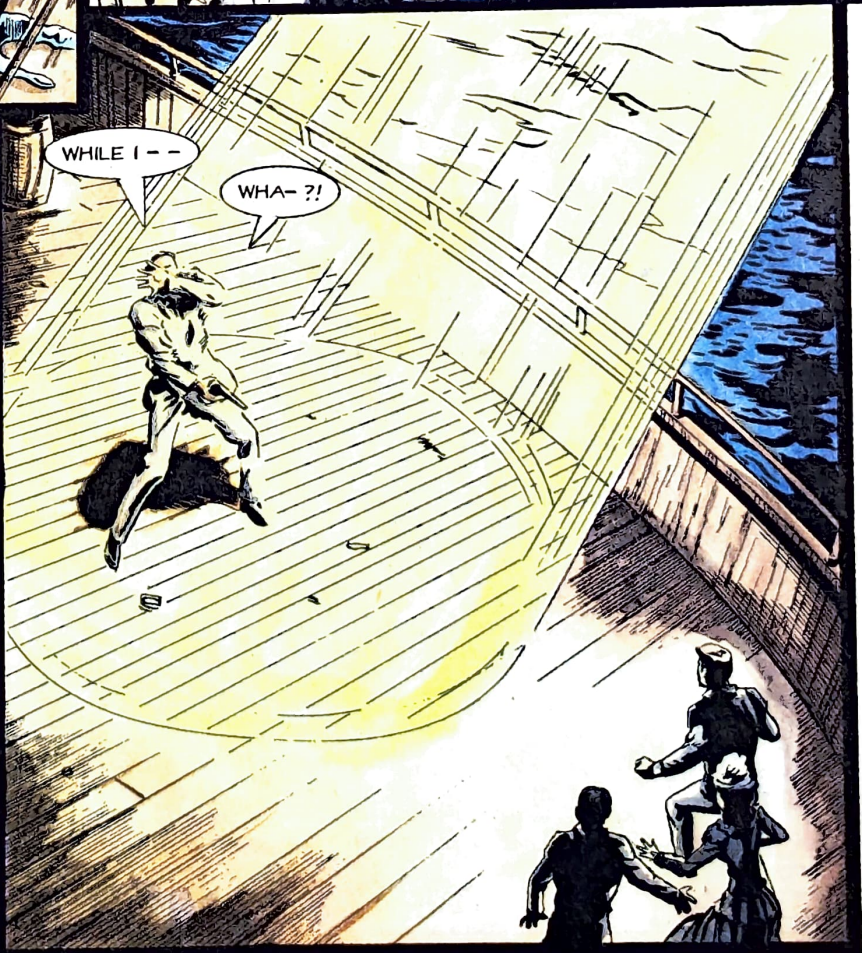
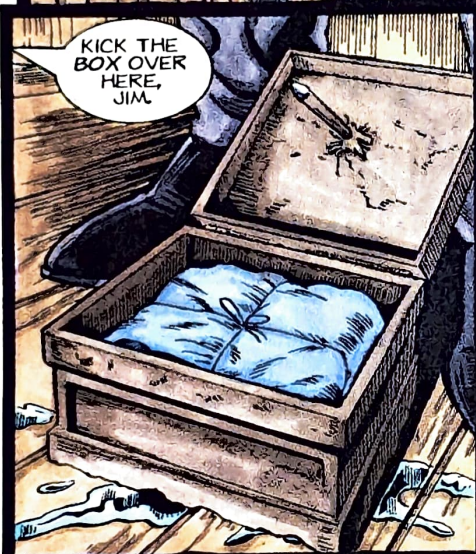
STORY: MARK ELLIS
PAUL DAVIS

ART: JOHN HEBERT
ROBERT LEWIS
CHRIS LEIDENFROST

COLORS: MELISSA MARTIN
DEIRDRE DELAY


LETTERS: DEIRDRE DELAY

millennium



FROM MY LIFE IN THE SECRET SERVICE,
THE MEMOIRS OF ARTEMUS GORDON
(PRIVATELY PUBLISHED, 1910):

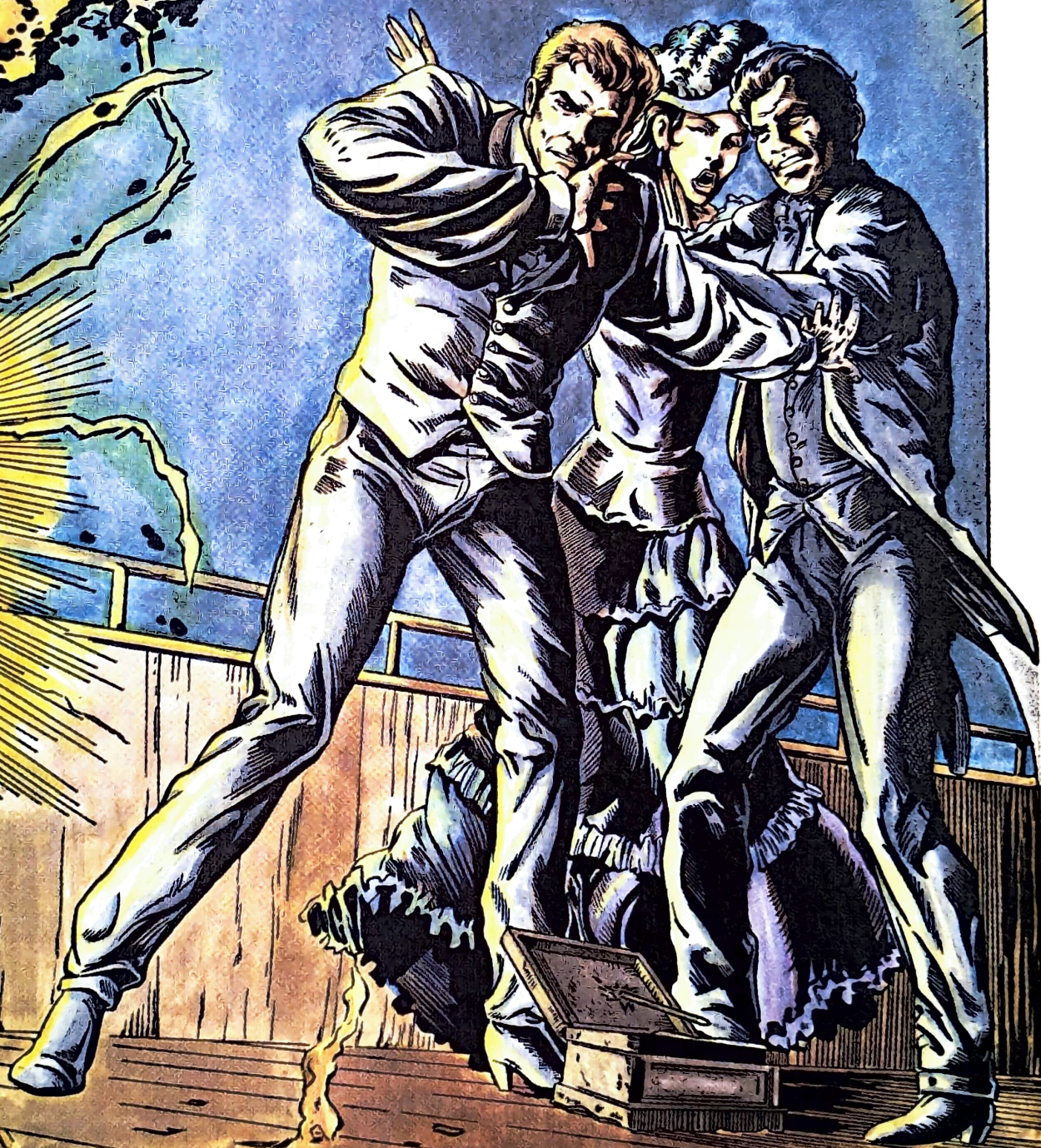
"WE'D KNOWN COLONEL RICHMOND,
OUR TERRITORIAL SUPERVISOR, FOR
YEARS. NEVER HAD WE KNOWN
HIM TO BE ANYTHING OTHER
THAN DEDICATED."

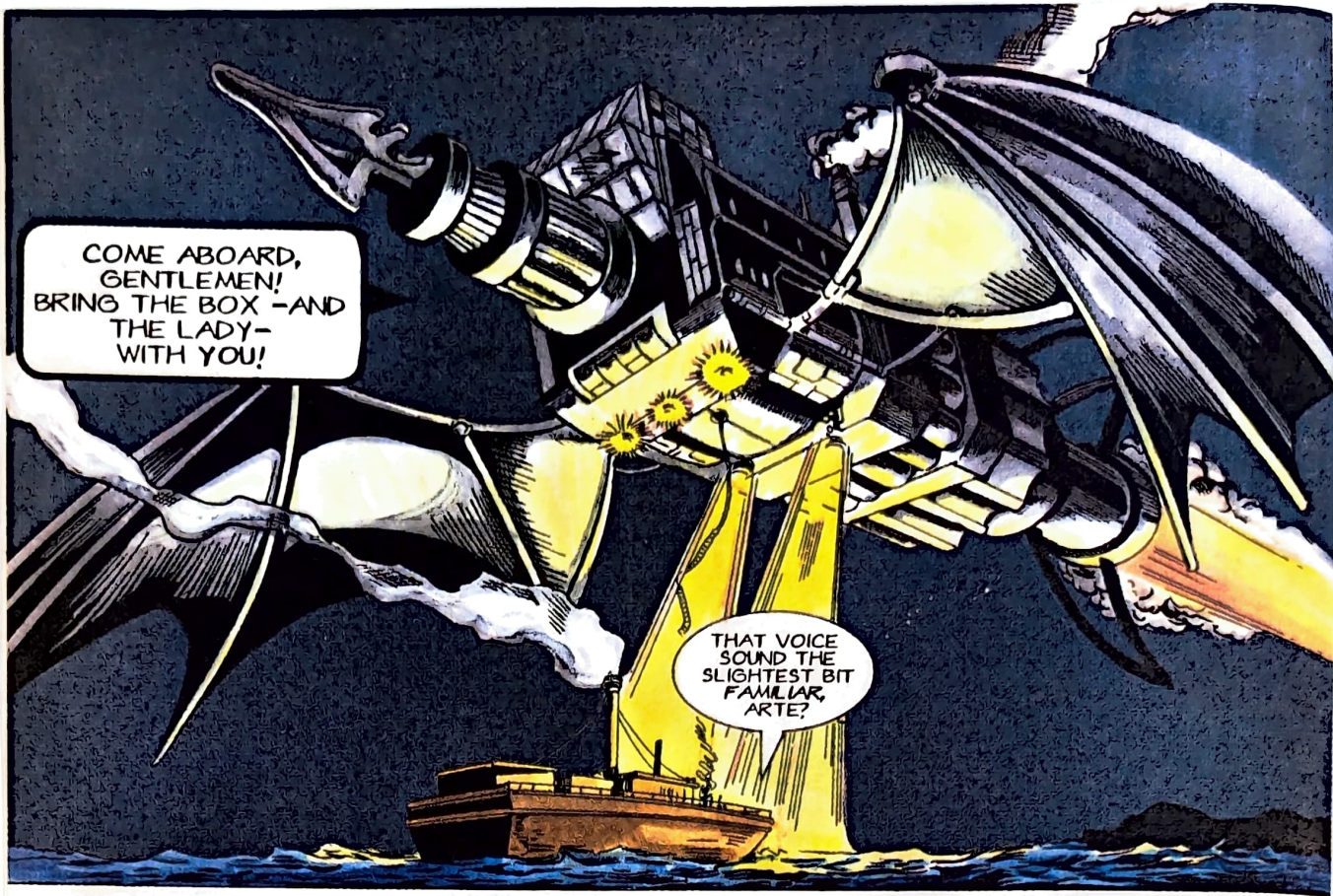


"IT WAS A SHOCK TO DISCOVER
THAT HIS DEDICATION WASN'T
NECESSARILY TO THE COUNTRY."

"THE NIGHT OF THE IRON TYRANTS"

PART III

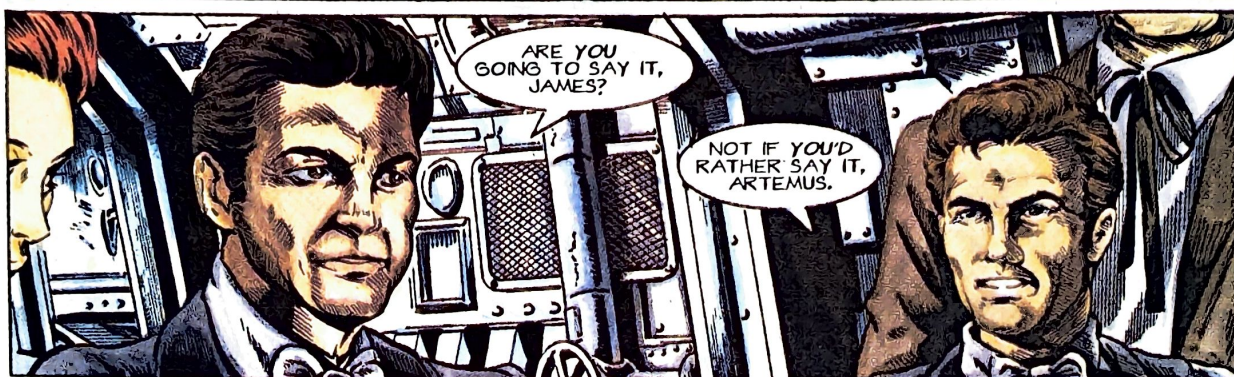






50—
"JOURNEYS END
IN LOVER'S MEETING"...
AND ALL THAT
SENTIMENTAL ROT.

WELL,
GENTLEMEN--?



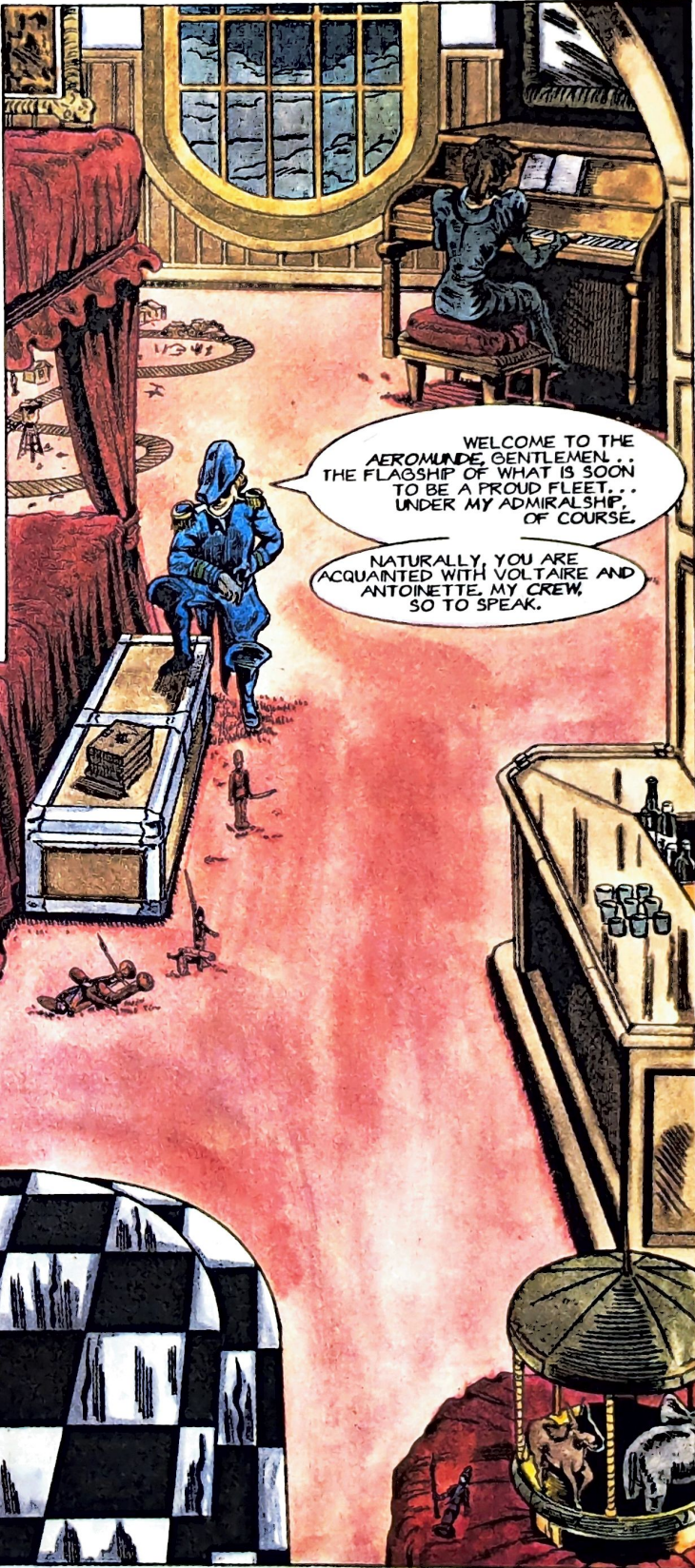


THAT—
MADMAN HAS
US AT HIS MERCY,
YET YOU TWO WERE
DELIBERATELY PROVOKING
HIM!!

WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH
LOVELESS, THE ONLY
WAY TO GET HIM
TO REVEAL ALL—

—IS TO PRETEND YOU
HAVE NO INTEREST IN HIM
WHATSOEVER.

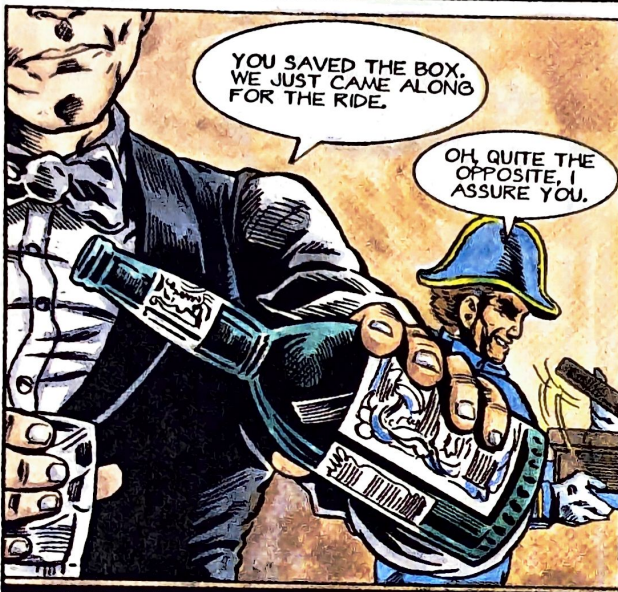
YOU'VE MET
HIM BEFORE?

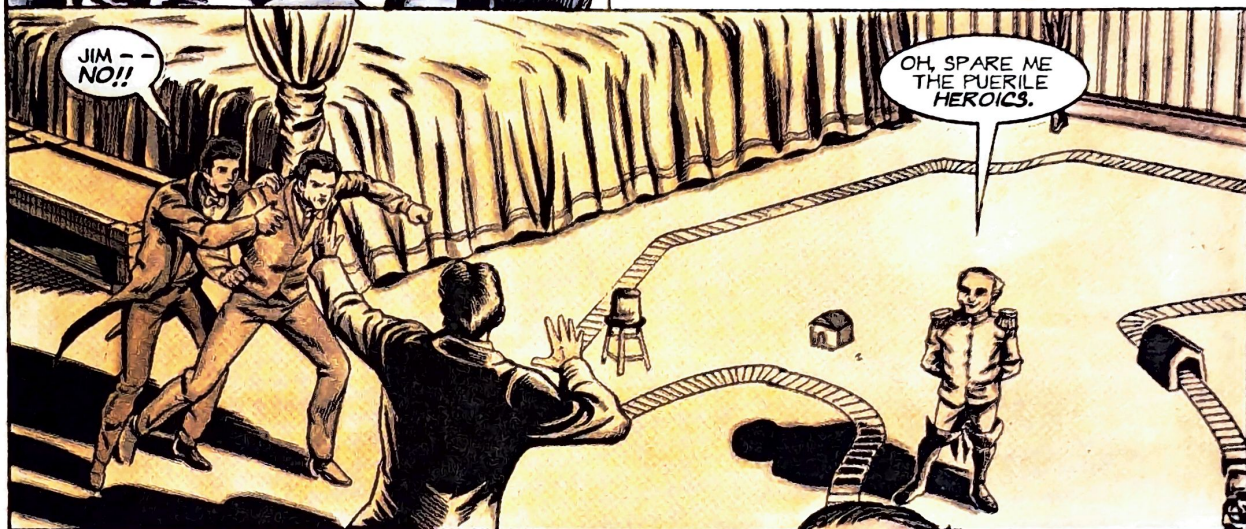


WELCOME TO THE
AEROMUNDE, GENTLEMEN...
THE FLAGSHIP OF WHAT IS SOON
TO BE A PROUD FLEET...
UNDER MY ADMIRALSHIP,
OF COURSE.

NATURALLY, YOU ARE
ACQUAINTED WITH VOLTAIRE AND
ANTOINETTE, MY CREW,
SO TO SPEAK.

MANY TIMES—
AND HIS ENTOURAGE.







I'M ENTITLED
TO MY WHIMS,
MR. GORDON.

AS YOU ARE
ENTITLED TO
KNOW SOMETHING
OF THE GAME YOU'VE
UNWITTINGLY JOINED.



SIMPLY IN THE
INTERESTS OF
FAIR PLAY,
OF COURSE.



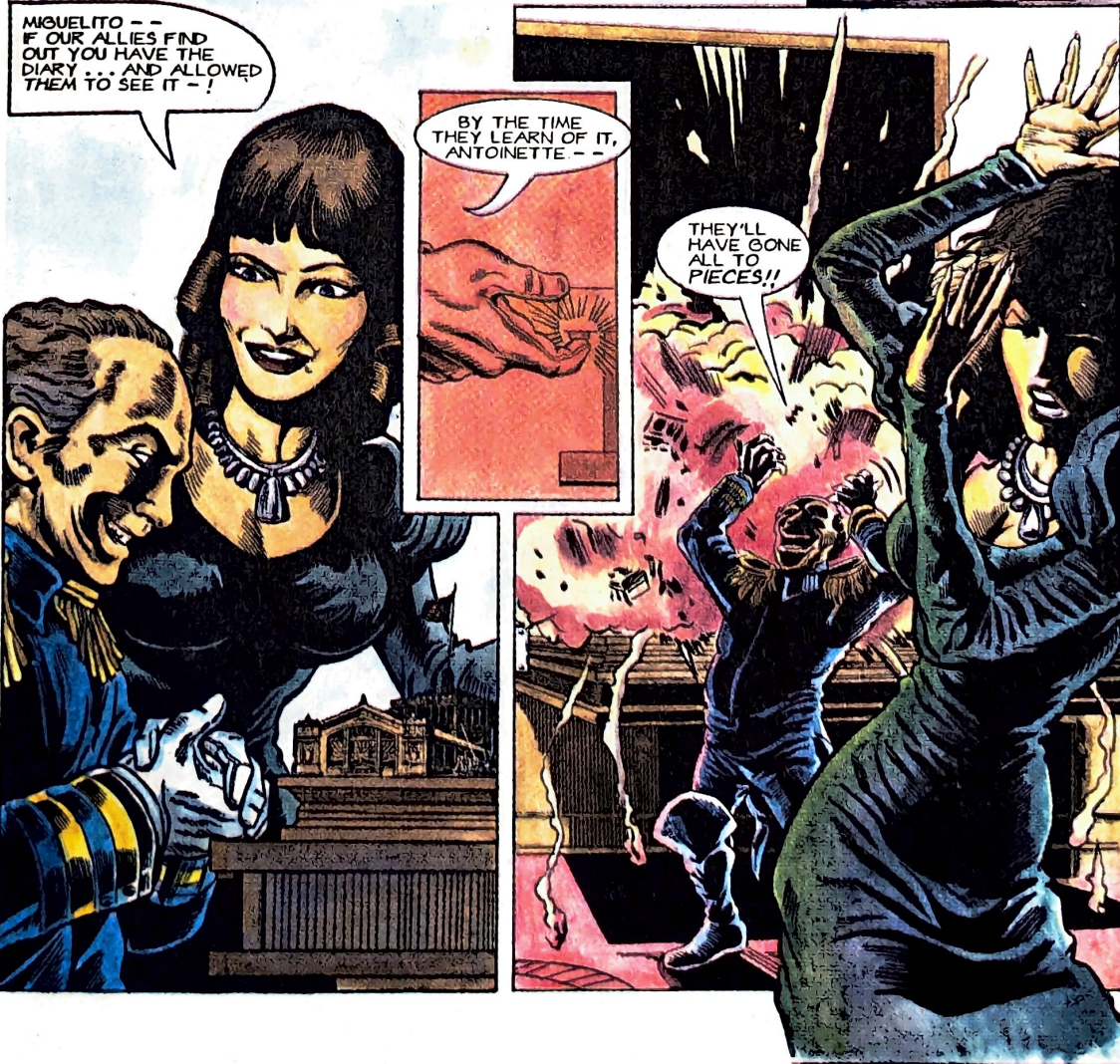
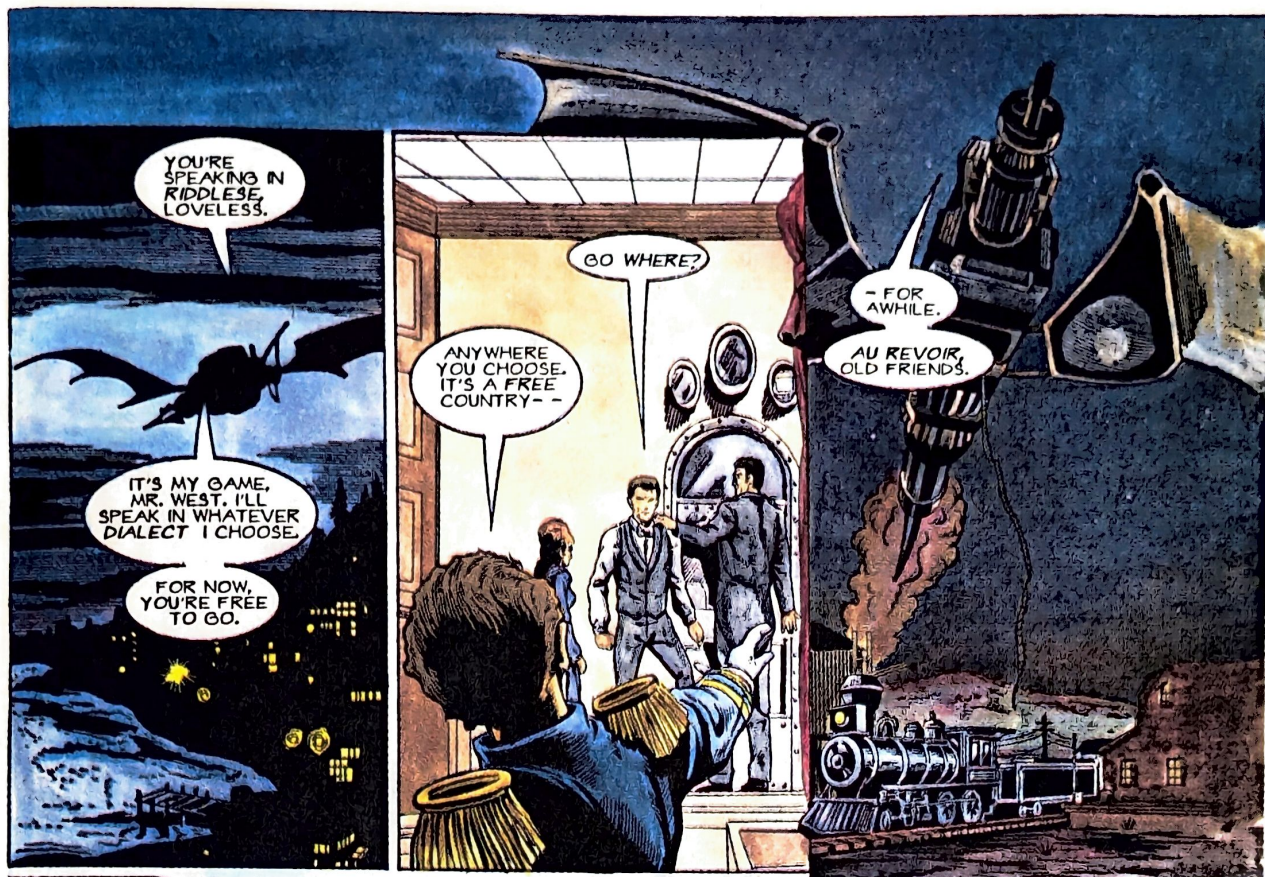
THE SCENE OF AMERICA'S
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION...
THE PHILADELPHIA EXHIBITION.



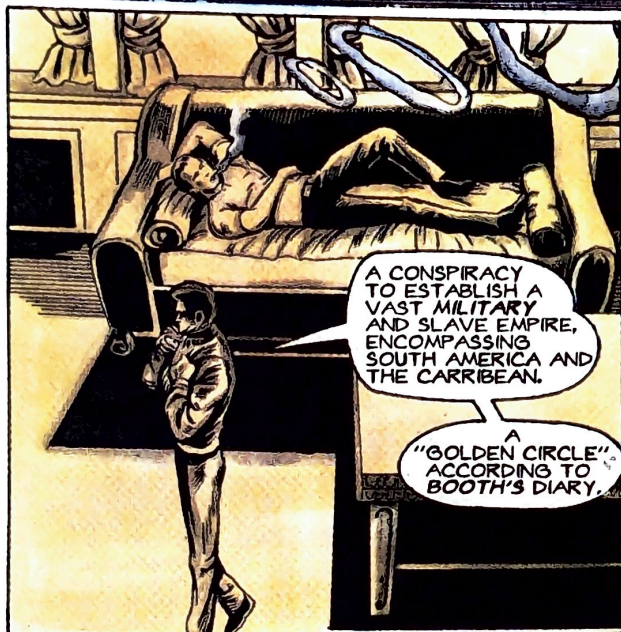
THE THEME IS
PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

THE REALITY IS
ONE OF BLOOD,
WAR AND CONQUEST.

THAT'S THE GAME,
GENTLEMEN...
PLAY IT OR DON'T.



ALL RIGHT...
SO WHAT DO
WE HAVE?



A CONSPIRACY
TO ESTABLISH A
VAST MILITARY
AND SLAVE EMPIRE,
ENCOMPASSING
SOUTH AMERICA AND
THE CARRIBEAN.

A
"GOLDEN CIRCLE"
ACCORDING TO
BOOTH'S DIARY.

LOVELESS
IS INVOLVED
WITH THE
CABAL...



AND OUR
ATTEMPTS TO
REACH GRANT BY
TELEGRAPH HAVE
BEEN DENIED DUE
"TO THE PRESIDENT'S
ILLNESS."



WE'RE UP AGAINST
THE GOVERNMENT
ITSELF, ARTE...

THESE
"KNIGHTS OF THE
GOLDEN CIRCLE"
AREN'T OUT TO
OVERTHROW AMERICA --



THEY'VE
ALREADY
DONE IT.

I'VE ...
NEVER HEARD
YOU SPEAK
THIS WAY,
JIM.

THINK ABOUT IT...
THE WAR... ALL
WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH
OVER THE YEARS...

WE CAN'T
EVEN TRUST
OUR GOVERNMENT --
SO WHAT DOES IT
ALL MEAN NOW?





IT MEANS WE
FIGHT BACK.



MY COUNTRYMAN
HERE HAS TOLD ME OF
WHAT YOU TWO
HAVE DONE
OVER THE YEARS.

MUCH OF IT
SEEMS LIKE
"PENNY DREADFUL"
MATERIAL --



- BUT THE ONE
CONSTANT IS YOUR
REFUSAL TO ACCEPT
DEFEAT ... GRACEFULLY
OR OTHERWISE.



OVER DINNER
WE CAN DETERMINE
A COURSE OF ACTION.



- WE NEED ONE TINY,
UNIMPORTANT COMPONENT - -

- YOU MAY'VE
HEARD IT
REFERRED TO
AS A "PLAN."



THAT IS
WHY I'M
STILL HERE,
GENTLEMEN.

TO DETERMINE
ANYTHING -

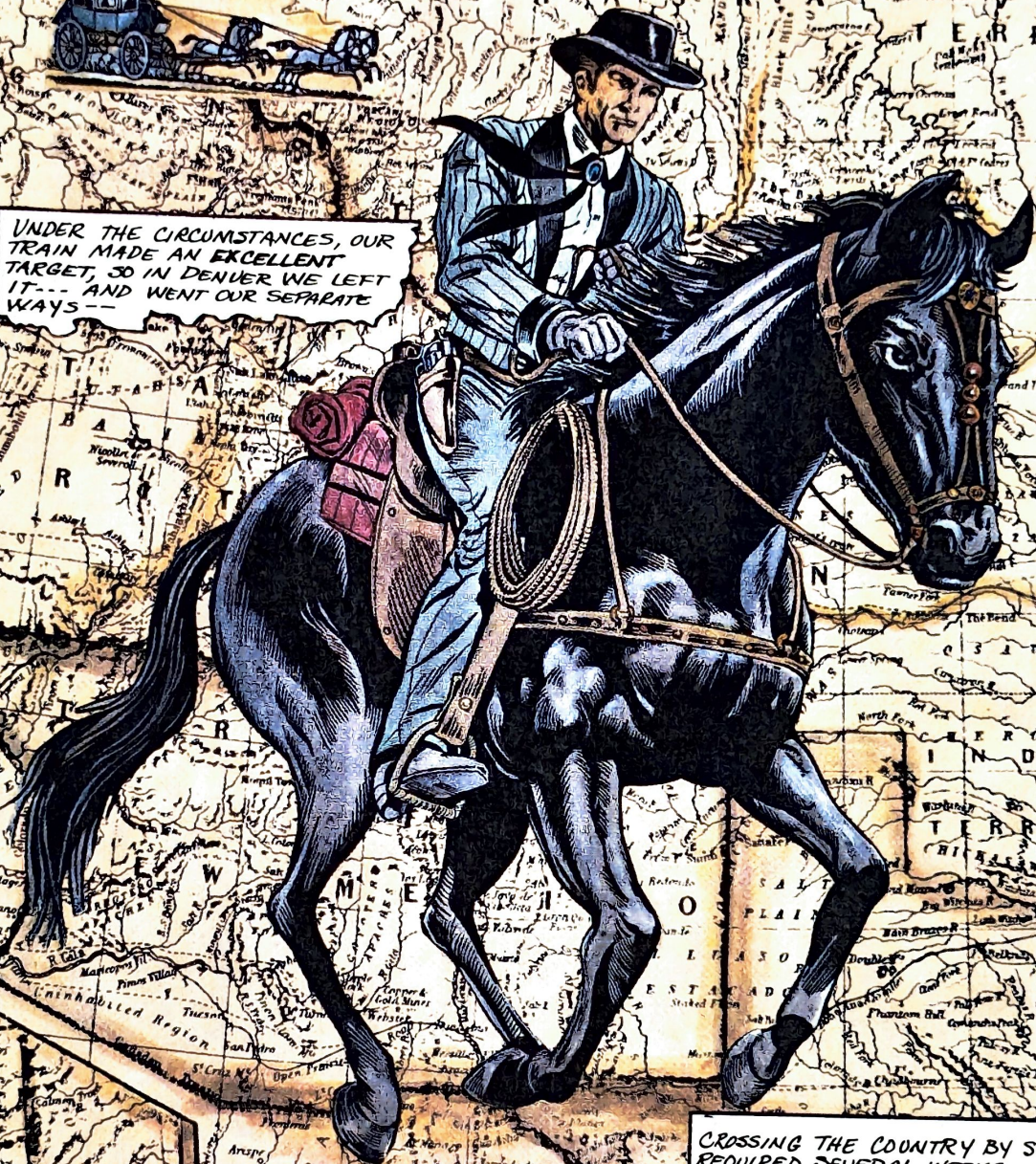
"AS A PLAN, WHAT WE DEVELOPED HAD ALL THE SUCCESS QUOTIENT OF A SIOUX VICTORY OVER CUSTER'S SEVENTH CAVALRY...

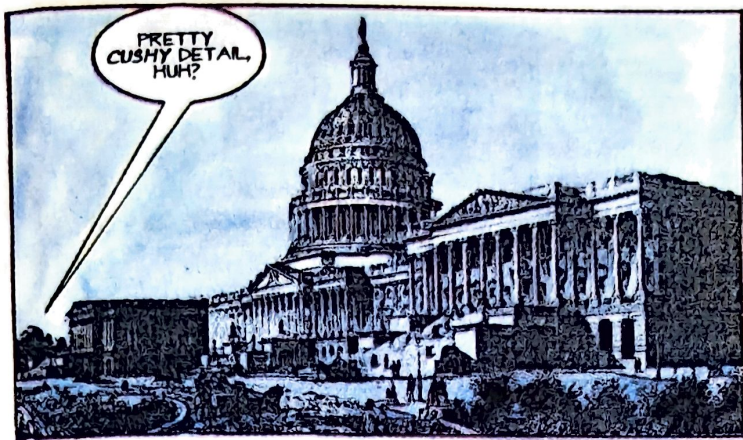
"BUT NEITHER JIM NOR I HAD EVER ESTABLISHED REPUTATIONS AS PERCENTAGE PLAYERS.

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, OUR TRAIN MADE AN EXCELLENT TARGET, SO IN DENVER WE LEFT IT--- AND WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS---

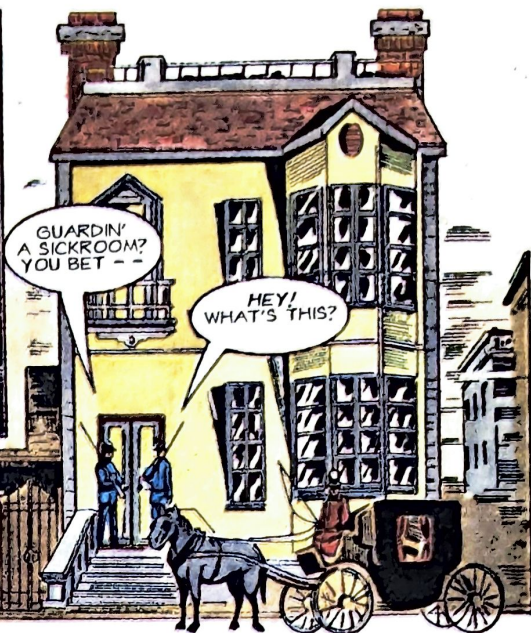
JIM WENT ON HORSEBACK-- WHILE FELICITY AND I CHOSE VARIOUS MEANS OF TRANSPORT UNTIL WE REACHED OUR DESTINATION.

CROSSING THE COUNTRY BY STEALTH REQUIRED SEVERAL WEEKS... BUT IT ALSO REDUCED THE ODDS OF US BEING RECOGNIZED, DETAINED, OR WORSE."



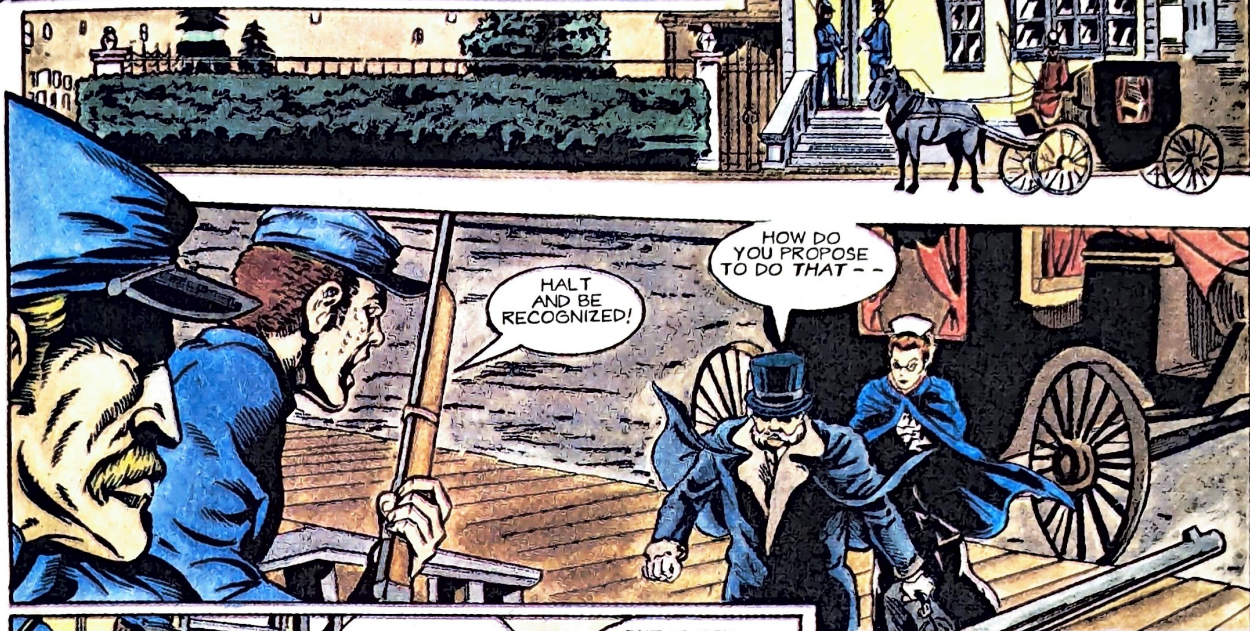


PRETTY CUSHY DETAIL, HUM?



GUARDIN' A SICKROOM? YOU BET --

HEY! WHAT'S THIS?



HALT AND BE RECOGNIZED!

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO THAT --



- WHEN YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ME BEFORE?

BUT IF YOU INSIST ON THIS CHARADE - DOCTOR NEINKORF, THE PRESIDENT'S PHYSICIAN... AND MY NURSE, MISS MORSTAN.

PHYSICAN -?! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE!



NOW, SHALL YOU INFORM THE PRESIDENT YOU TURNED AWAY THE ONE MAN WHO CAN CURE HIM... OR SHALL I?



DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU THAT, YOUNG MAN?

HIS WIRE REACHED ME IN MUNICH, AND I CAME STRAIGHTAWAY.



MR. PRESIDENT?

HUH? WHOZAT?



ARTEMUS GORDON, SIR.

YOU'RE IN GREAT DANGER.



YOUR "MEDICINE" IS 90 PERCENT LAUDANUM!

SIR YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME --



ARTEMUS...? PON MY SOUL...

WHERE'S JIM? GOOD OL' JIM...

LEMME HAVE MY MEDICINE, AN' --

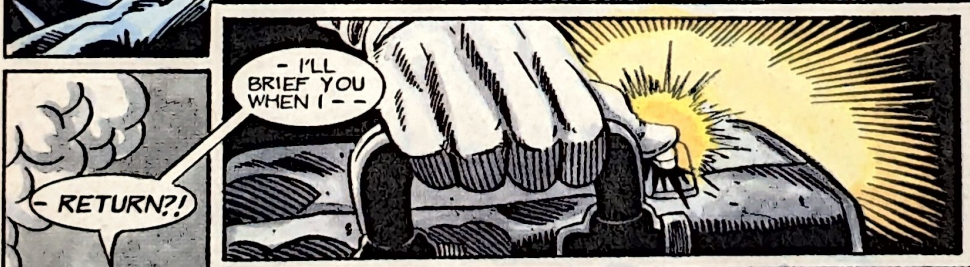


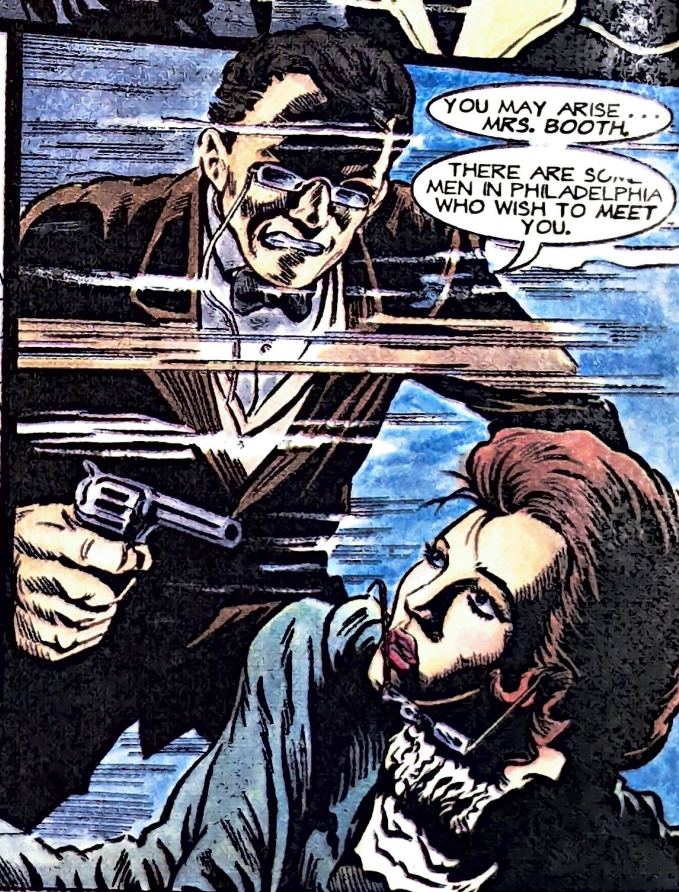
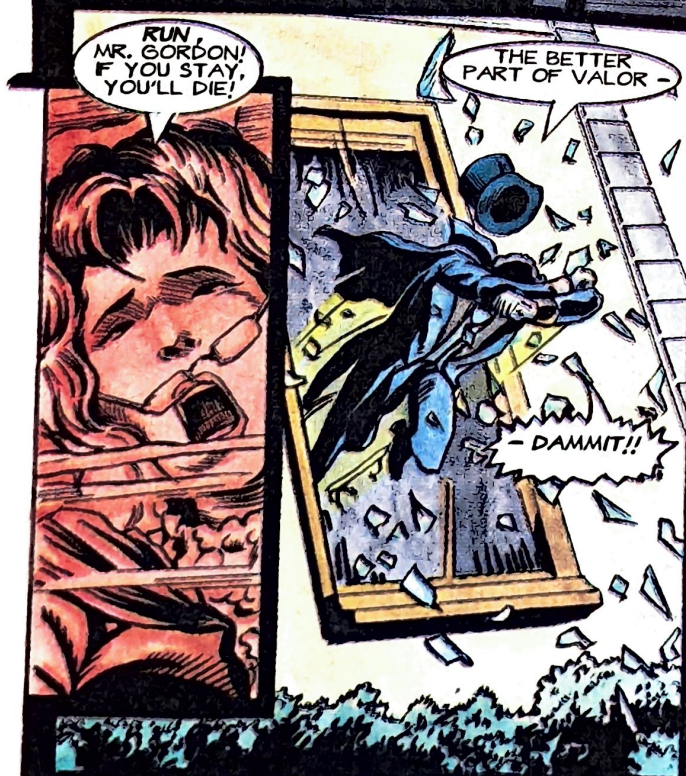
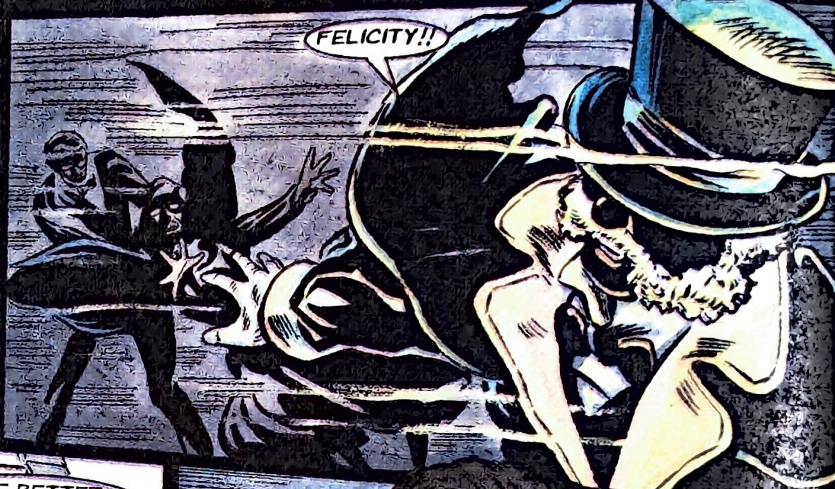
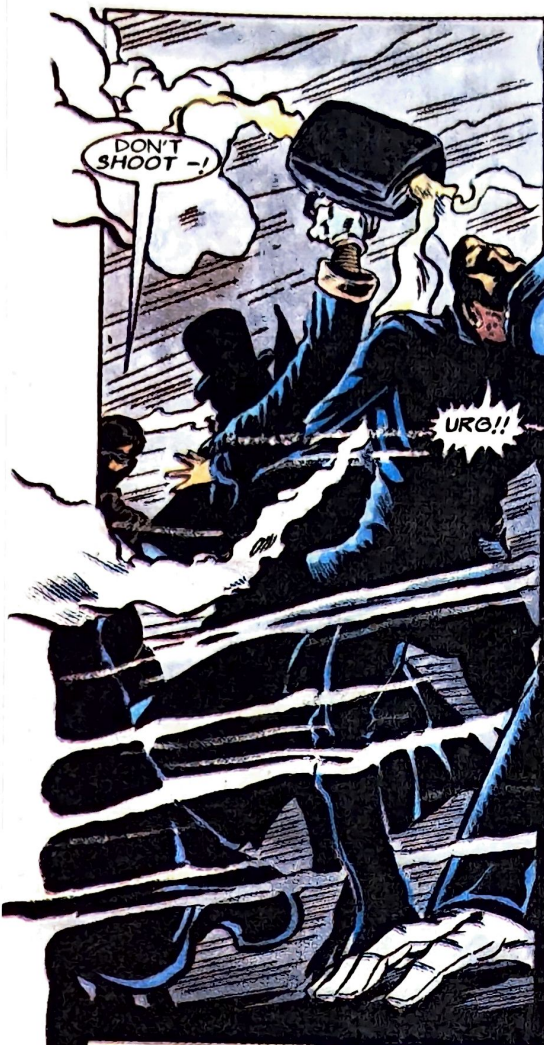
THERE'S A CONSPIRACY AFOOT CONNECTED TO THE PHILADELPHIA EXHIBITION. YOU'VE GOT TO --

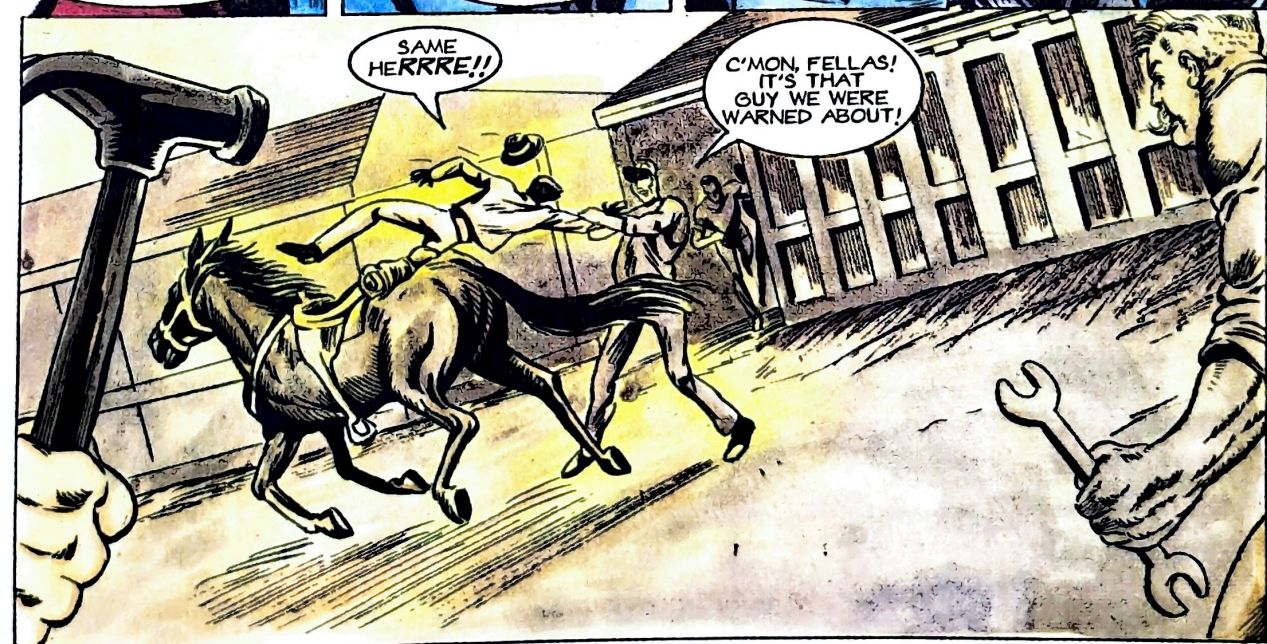
MR. GORDON --?

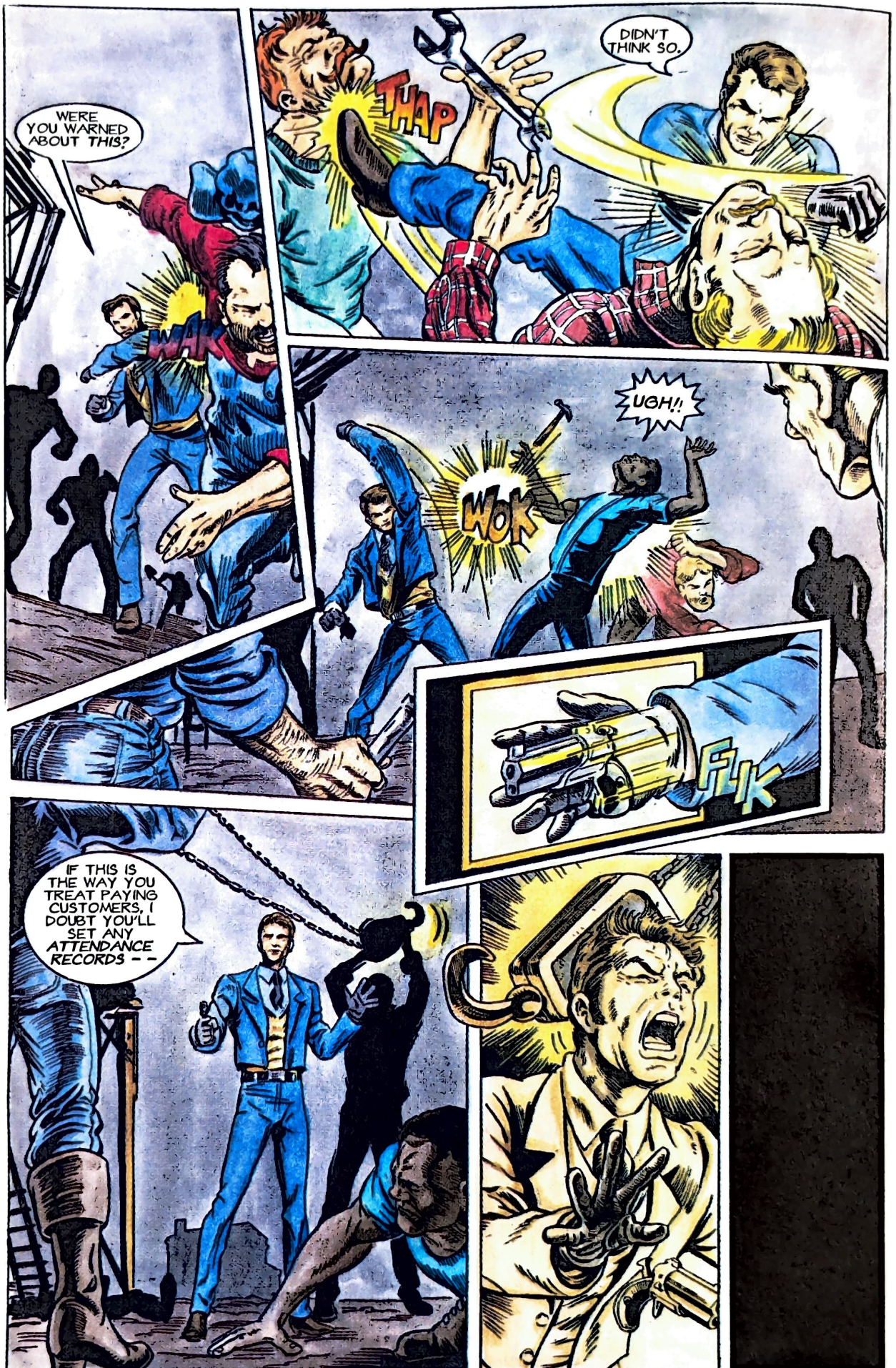


STAND WHERE YOU ARE!









THAT CAN BE
REMOVED NOW,
I THINK.

GOOD TO
SEE YOU,
MAJOR WEST -

AND YOU
TOO,
MRS. BOOTH

I HEREBY CONVENE
THE TRIBUNAL OF
THE GOLDEN CIRCLE.

THE ISSUE:
THE TREASONOUS
ACTIONS OF
MAJOR JAMES WEST
AND HIS ACCOMPLICE,
MRS. JOHN WILKES BOOTH.

LUCIUS QUIRK,
ISN'T IT?
FORMER ASSISTANT
TO THE LATE
SECRETARY OF WAR,
EDWIN STANTON.

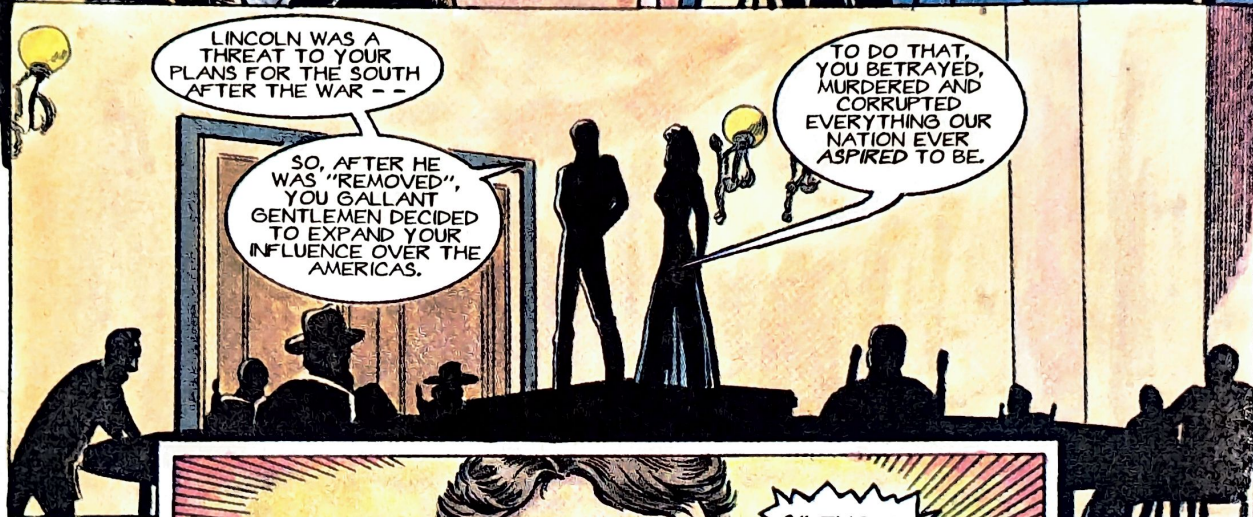
NOW THE
HIGH TRAITOR
OF A GROUP
OF TRAITORS.



YOU'RE
OUT OF ORDER,
MAJOR WEST!



AND YOU'RE
OUT OF YOUR
MIND,
MR. QUIRK.



LINCOLN WAS A
THREAT TO YOUR
PLANS FOR THE SOUTH
AFTER THE WAR --

SO, AFTER HE
WAS "REMOVED",
YOU GALLANT
GENTLEMEN DECIDED
TO EXPAND YOUR
INFLUENCE OVER THE
AMERICAS.

TO DO THAT,
YOU BETRAYED,
MURDERED AND
CORRUPTED
EVERYTHING OUR
NATION EVER
ASPIRED TO BE.

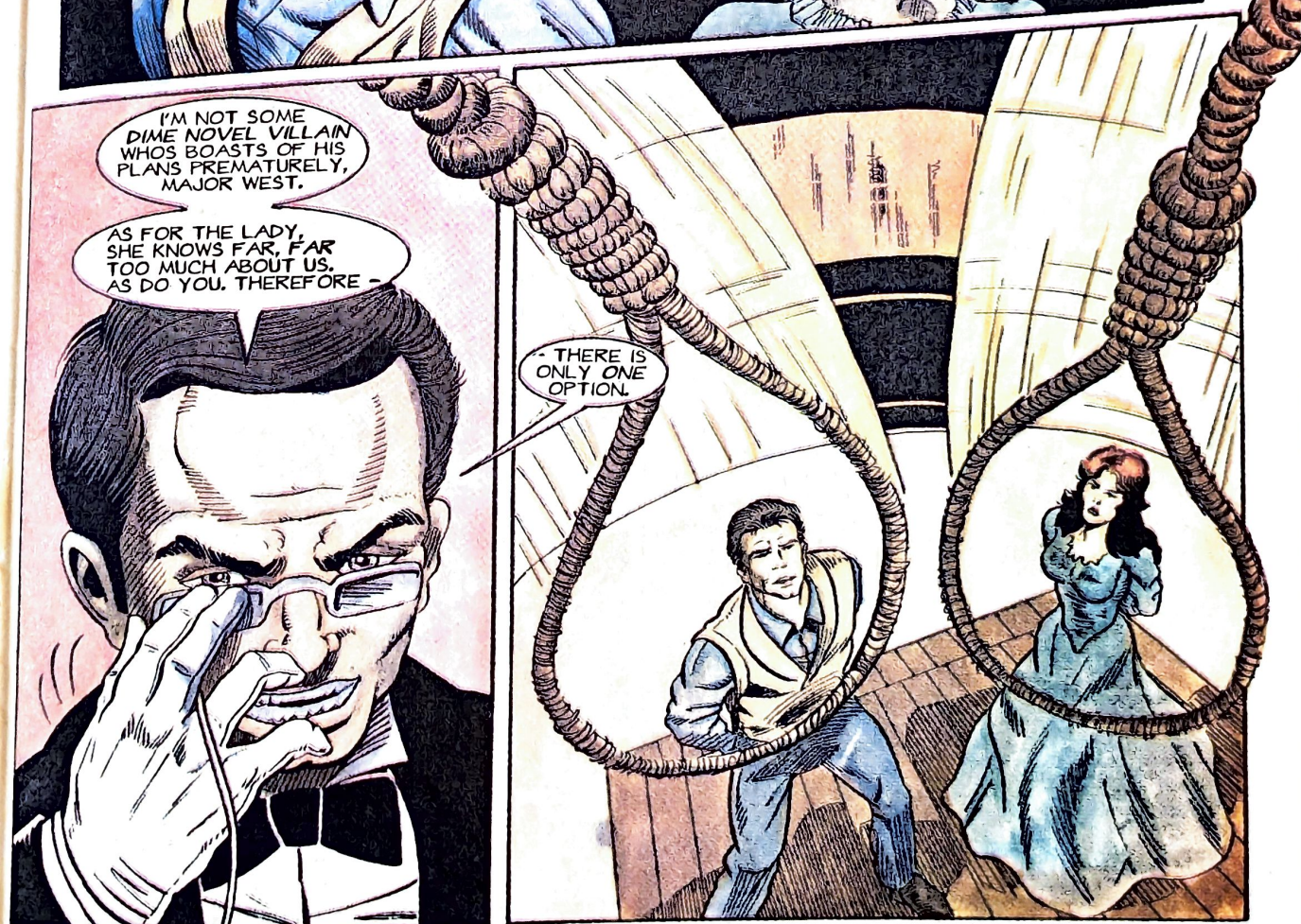


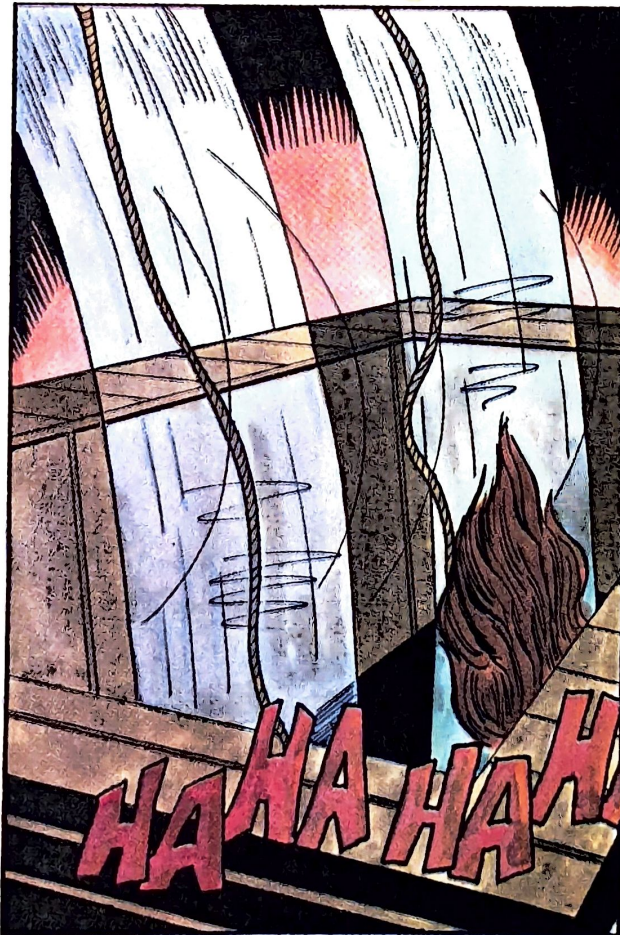
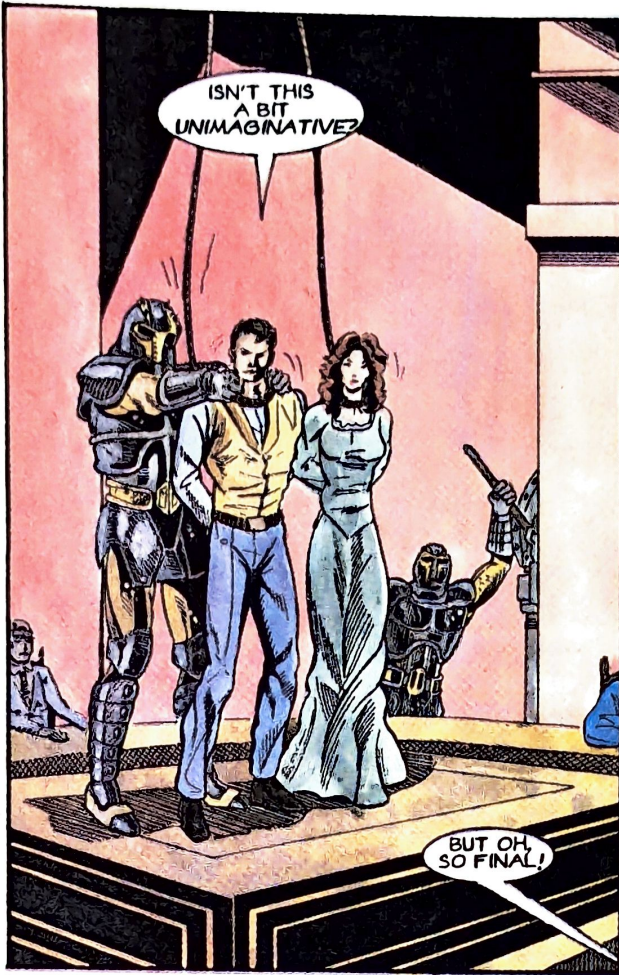
SILENCE!!

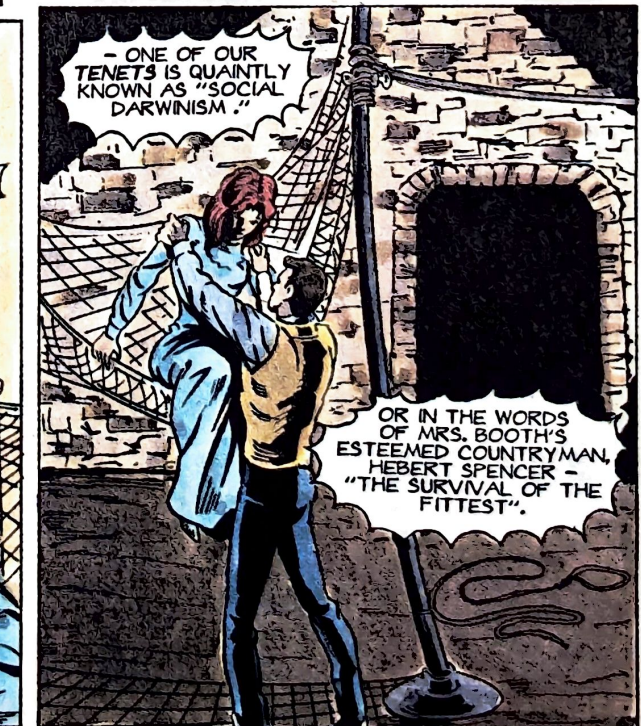
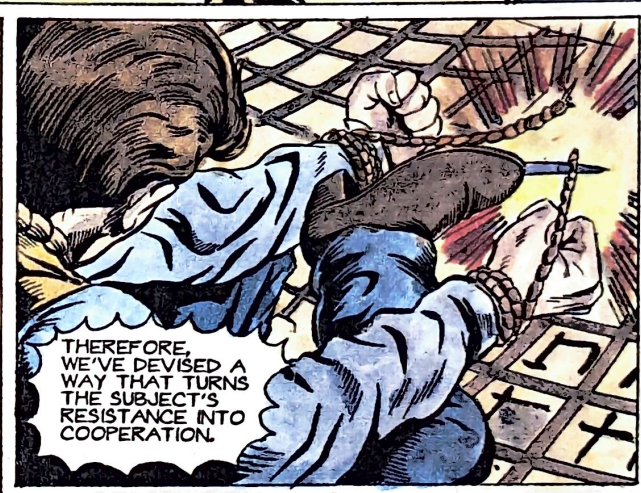
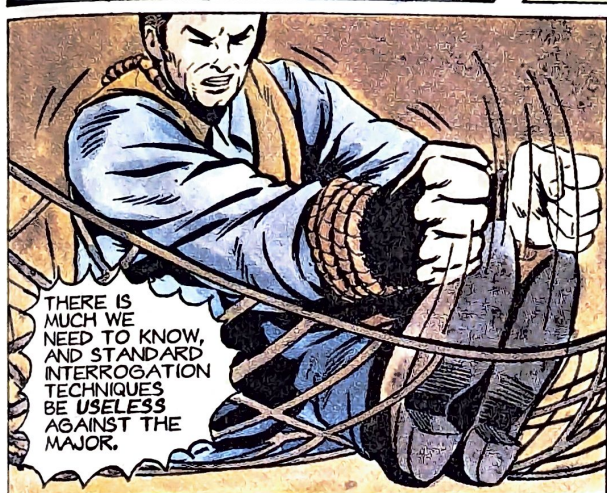
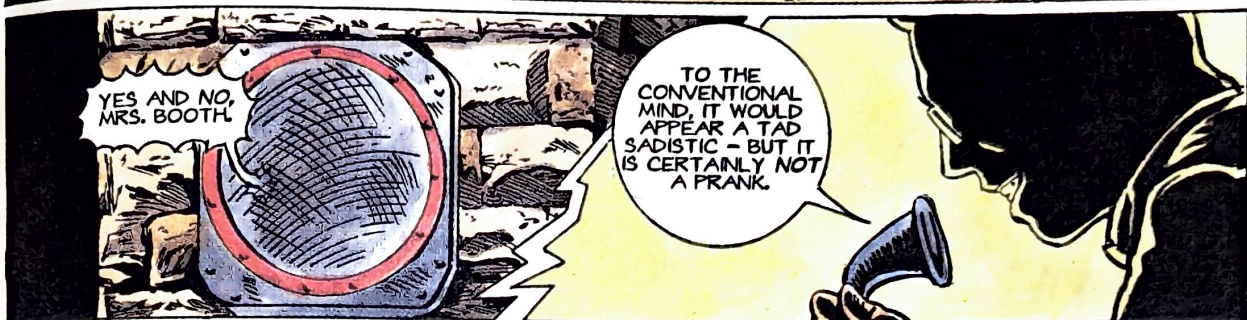


TO SURVIVE,
THIS COUNTRY
MUST EMBRACE A
NEWER, STRONGER
PHILOSOPHY!

WE
KNIGHTS OF THE
GOLDEN CIRCLE
HAVE THE SET THE
GOAL OF UNIFICATION
OF THE AMERICAS...
AND THAT CALLS FOR
RUTHLESS MEASURES!









INDEED, IF WE REJECT SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST AS A PHILOSOPHY, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS SURVIVAL OF THE UNFITTEST.

THE FORMER IS THE LAW OF CIVILIZATION, THE LATTER IS THE LAW OF ANARCHY AND CHAOS.



IN ORDER FOR CANDIDATES TO QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ELITE IRON KNIGHTS, THEY MUST PROVE THEY ARE THE FITTEST.

TO TEST OUR CANDIDATES, THEY MUST WALK THE LINE... RUN THE GAUNTLET OF DEATH.



WHAT YOU ARE FACING IS JUST THE FIRST OF MANY OBSTACLES... THE REMAINDER CONTAINS A RICH ASSORTMENT OF THE UNEXPECTED.

RUN A GOOD RACE, MAJOR WEST.

TO BE CONTINUED

**ONE OF THE
HOT PICKS OF
THE SUMMER!**

"This could be the western comic for those who *hate* westerns--It's fun, intelligent and witty--a refreshing book in an increasingly mundane comics world."

-Sheldon Wiebe
AMAZING HEROES

THE WILD WILD WEST



**#4 In Full
Color!**

©CBS 1989



"...A very faithful, very entertaining comic that lives up to the potential of the (T.V.) series...a story that ranks with the best of the original T.V. run... This *is* *The Wild, Wild West*--James West and Artemus Gordon out on the wild frontier fighting bizarre menaces...This is fun!"

- COMIC SHOP NEWS

A TALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Yet another explanatory introduction to this latest batch of letters:

As you've certainly noticed by now, regular West artist Darryl Banks is missing from this issue for a variety of reasons. Primarily, we wanted to give Darryl adequate time to produce the explosive climax to "The Night of the Iron Tyrants." Not only does next issue run a bit longer than usual, it also contains some the most incredible imagery Darryl has ever produced - and that's not just hyperbole!

Therefore, we tapped the talents of John Hebert to pencil this issue's tale. Comics readers will recognize John's name from his work on *Jonny Quest*, *Sable*, *Newstralia* and *Hero Alliance*.

As for the letters, we went to press before we received more than one missive regarding **West # 2**. And that seems as good a place to begin as any.

Dear Millenniumers;
(Try saying that with a mouthful of marbles)

Having had a great deal of difficulty securing **West #1** (it sold out twice in my comics shop before I was able to grab a copy), I had my retailer reserve #2 for me well in advance.

After reading it, I was glad I went to the extra bit of trouble. It was great! Cover, art and story, the whole production. Though paced differently than Part One, it was fascinating to see the plot unfold.

These "Knights of the Golden Circle" look to be a sinister bunch. I'm familiar with Boss Tweed, Jay Gould and the others, but is Quirk an actual historical figure? And aren't you a bit concerned about offending some people who might view your portrayal of these men as evil conspirators somewhat insulting to their memories?

K.A. Richardson
Andover, MA

Well, K.A., so far the Jay Gould Fan Club hasn't picketed the Millennium office. As for Quirk - he's a compilation of various schemers who skulked through government halls during that time. Though he never really existed, his prototype certainly did - and still does. If you doubt me, just check out current gasoline prices!

Dear Mr. Davis and Co:

When I saw the cover of **West #1**, I was thinking "Better than average independent cover, probably black and white chicken scratching interior art, probably no comparison to the series, and pathetic characterizations."

I dined on my foot for supper. The art is **BEAUTIFUL!!** The story is rich, the characters are perfect, and it's hands-down a title which will climb in value (despite 17 year old comic shop clerks who say "**Wild, Wild West?** Never heard of it.")

Congrats to a new independent for stomping an establishment going lax. Now, if you'll excuse me, I must write to Dark Horse and taunt them for *Aliens: Earthwar # 1*.

Charles Ballard
St. Louis, MO

Dear Paul and the Rest of The West;

The Wild, Wild West is **GREAT!!** The story is excellent and the artwork was superb! If the same superior work can be expected from **The Mummy**, I will definitely buy it!

Dan Parrish
Greensboro, NC

You can not only expect it, Dan, you can count on it!

Dear Mr Davis;

I think if the rest of the series is as good as **West #1**, it will be a really excellent title. I wonder if you could tell me if there is a **Wild, Wild West** fan club I could join.

Dale Tremaine
Sydney, Australia

Here we segue into a piece of information we should've included before. We've been inundated with phone calls and letters inquiring about everything from West lunch boxes to West videos. Sorry, we don't have 'em (well, we do have some videos, but they aren't for sale). The best place to try and find these items is to write to: Back To The Wild, Wild West, c/o Ann Teipen, 618 Martin St., Indianapolis, IN., 46227. This is the official West appreciation society. Tell 'em Millennium sent you.

Dear Paul;

I was quite pleased by the first issue of **The Wild, Wild West**. It is apparent that the authors had seen the original series and the comic reflected a great deal of the intelligence and wit of the television episodes. I would also like to compliment your company on its accurate (at least to me) portrayal of the corruption among Grant's advisors.

However, by not using thought balloons, you forced the characters to say things that should have been thought and not voiced. I still did not have any problem following and enjoying the story. And using "He's dead, Jim" was a cute reference to Star Trek. Keep up the good work.

Howard T. Konig
Southfield, MI

We'll try, but we won't use thought balloons. We hate the pesky things. Now, as promised last issue, is our one, single negative letter:

Dear Mr. Davis;

I really disliked **West #1**. The story was boring, the art was only adequate, and the stapling job on my issue was sloppy. If you can't do a better job than this, you'd should just give up. I'm looking forward to seeing **The Mummy**, though.

S.T. Turner
Tampa, FL

Yeah...and he's looking forward to seeing you, too, S.T.

Hello to Paul and the Millennium Crew!

I enjoyed seeing you all at your table at the Atlanta Comics Expo. I picked up **Wild, Wild West #1** here in Tallahassee, where it's sold out in 2 of the 3 comics stores! It's an impressive publication!

Ed Quimby,
Tallahassee, FL

We enjoyed meeting you too, Ed, and everyone else who stopped by to chat at June's Expo.

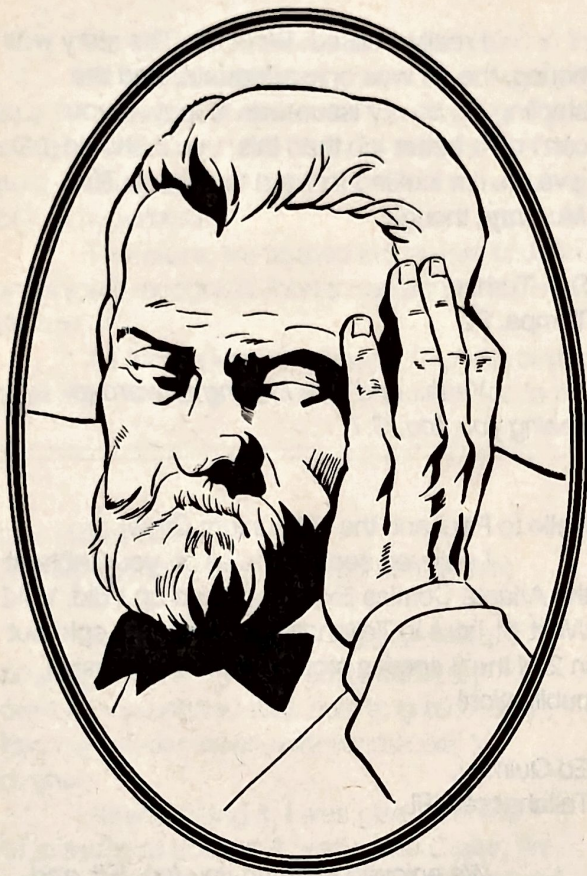
*We keep hearing reports that **West** sells out in most stores in virtually a matter of days, and therefore, a number of readers have difficulty finding it. One solution is to badger your local retailer to order enough copies in the **FIRST PLACE**, so that he and every other store owner in the continental U.S. aren't putting in reorders virtually at the same time. Or if that doesn't work, ask him or her to call their distributor and increase their order before that issue is printed.*

Really enjoyed **West #1**. Please keep the plots tight, the artwork sparkling, and expand on the legend and the continuity. Look at what Dark Horse did with **Aliens**!

Gary Sperrazza
Buffalo, NY

CharlieBallard, are you listening?

FROM THE FILES OF THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE:



PERSONAL DATA:

Name: Ulysses Hiram (Simpson) Grant
Occupation: President of the United States
Marital Status: Married
Eyes: Gray/Blue
Hair: Auburn

Ulysses Grant was the 18th President of the United States. He attended West Point, where he distinguished himself as not only a master horseman, but for his deep understanding of military tactics. His military leadership first came to public attention during the Mexican/American War, though he was forced in 1854 to resign his commission due to excessive drinking.

Grant's commission was reinstated

at the outbreak of the War Between The States in 1860. In 1864, he became the commander of all field Union forces and he became legendary for two traits; a gruff, almost non-military demeanor and his single-minded obsession with the "unconditional surrender" of the entire Confederacy.

In 1865, he captured Robert E. Lee and was instrumental in the declaration of surrender at the Appomattox courthouse.

Based on this and his war record, Grant was nominated for President on the Republican ticket in 1868. He easily defeated Democratic nominee Horatio Seymour, in spite of his lack of aptitude for politics. Recognizing this deficiency, Grant filled his cabinet with men whom he trusted. Unfortunately, very few of them were worthy of this trust and they took advantage of, and manipulated his reliance on them.

Although accusations of corruption were erupting within his administration as early as 1870, Grant was re-elected in 1872. The following year, a severe depression, known as the "Great Panic" struck the economic base of the country. Though it was attributed at the time to the aftermath of the War, it was actually due to the machinations of Jay Gould and Jim Fisk.

Defeated in the election of 1876, Grant attempted a banking career, but was swindled out of his assets.

He died in 1885, after writing his memoirs with Samuel Clemens. This series of military biographies eventually earned over half a million dollars for his family.

FROM THE FILES OF THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE:



PERSONAL DATA

Name: Miguelito DeVega Loveless

Occupation: Scientist

Marital Status: Unknown

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Greyish/Blonde

Miguelito Loveless was born from the union of an American "filibuster" and Don Maria Concepcion DeVega.

His mother's family, the DeVegas, owned almost half of California, granted to them by the King of Spain well over a century before. Miguelito was afflicted with dwarfism, a birth defect that kept him from growing much over a height of three feet.

But though his body was stunted, his intellectual prowess was truly Olympian. Sequestered from the outside world on his family's vast estate,

Miguelito's every whim was indulged. Through private tutoring from some of the most brilliant minds in the world, he was able to earn a doctorate in his late teens, and Miguelito devoted his life to bettering humankind. Unfortunately, the American/Mexican war decreed his idyllic existence was not to continue.

Miguelito's family's land was appropriated by the victorious United States, and his mother, dispossessed and grief-stricken, passed away shortly thereafter. Broken hearted, the young Doctor Loveless went to Europe, hoping that his scientific theories would gain acceptance. Instead, he met rebuff after rebuff.

Because of the many rejections, Loveless' original motivations slowly changed to a bitter resentment.

In the late 1860s, Loveless returned to America, where he set up shop in San Francisco as a "criminal consultant", offering his acute mind for hire in the planning of criminal acts.

Within a few years, Loveless was no longer a mere consultant of criminals, but their master. Confident in his growing power base, Loveless determined to regain California through extortion, and it was this incident in which James West and Artemus Gordon first crossed swords with the diminutive genius.

Loveless clashed with the two men repeatedly over the years, but by the end of the 1870s, Loveless had disappeared. Reports surfaced in the mid-80s that he had died some years before, but not before fathering a son and daughter.

A young man claiming to be Miguelito Loveless, Junior did try to kill West and Gordon in 1885, but to date, no one has verified whether he was actually Loveless' son or a deranged imposter.

ANNE RICE'S

THE MUMMY

or Ramses the Damned

COMING THIS
OCTOBER FROM:

millennium



DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

The Wild Wild West, The Series

Now Available, an exciting, limited edition book all about the Wild Wild West!

The Wild, Wild West, the Series, is a unique chronology of the West t.v. series. In it you will find profiles of dozens of members of the original cast, also interviews with Robert Conrad, Irving Moore, Richard Donner and others. With more than 250 photographs that highlight the exciting stunts, unusual make-up creations, and West's gadgets and devices, the book also features complete synopses of all the series' 104 action-packed episodes.

The Wild Wild West, the Series is a treasure of little known information about the show, and the creative minds that pulled it all together. In it you'll learn how the west was won - and eventually *lost* by CBS, and how Jim and Arte's popularity has prompted a fan following that has lasted over two decades.

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NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Charles Darwin published his most influential book a few years before James West and Artemus Gordon joined the U.S. Secret Service.

The Origin of Species, with its tooth-and-claw imagery, seemed to explain the excesses of the Gilded Age. Corrupt politicians and millionaires who had built their vast wealth on the backs of the poor and immigrant labor looked no further than Darwin to justify their actions.

"The strongest and the best survive -that's the law of nature, after all- always has been and always will be," said Herbert Spencer, a popularizer of Darwin's thoughts. That Spencer was a self-indulgent hypochondriac evidently held no irony to either himself or his followers.

The Knights of the Golden Circle, impatient for change, took that philosophy to its extreme. And in a book like *The Wild, Wild West*, the real and the extreme mix easily - if only because the two are sometimes closer than we think.

Paul Davis
Narragansett, RI



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*"When criminality dons
the apparel of innocence,
it is up to innocence to
justify its existence."*

Camus

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